U. S. National Museum

Log Book
of
Collecting Trips for Fossil Cetaceans

1906.

F. W. True, Collectr

Log Book.

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Mch. 28.

Went to Chesapeake Beach on 9.25 AM. train. Weather dull, but cleared at noon. Collected from opposite R.R. station to about ½ miles South of commencement of Calvert Cliffs - Obtained about 100 pieces, including the conjoined cervicals of a Balaena (?). Left a large number of vertebrae and some fragments of jaws etc, along the cliffs, as could not carry so many - Got nothing out of the talus - all from the beach - One complete atlas, however, had just washed out of the bank at the angle just North of the Cliffs - There is a tree stump on the beach here & I put a number of vertebrae into it, which I could not carry. Tide very low -

Returned on 2.15 PM. train. Expenses: Car fares, 20 cts; R.R. ticket, $1.00; lunch, 35 cts

April 11.

Went to Ches. Beach on 9.25 AM train. Reached there at 11 AM. The tide according to the tide-tables should have been low at noon, but it did not go down perceptibly up to 2 o'clock, when I left. The water being up, I did not find more than 15 or 20 good specimens on the

beach - These were found between the Pavilion and the main bluffs - (By "main bluffs", I mean the begining of the high bluffs, which extend from about a mile south of the R.R. station nearly to Plum Pt.) - I could not go under the main bluffs on account of high water -

The specimens include a tooth which has the characteristic crenated crown of Acrodreplus (No. 1118) - In the small bluff about 200 yds. south of the Water Edge Hotel, and about one ft. above the beach, I found the ~~head~~ mandible of a Platanista - like Zoeplus (No. 1113) imbedded in the green marl. Dug it out, but it broke in several fragments; all pieces saved - The skull was doubtless there originally, but as it was imbedded with the tip of the beak inward everything posterior to the base of the beak had been carried away by the erosion of the face of the bluff.

Argyrocetus?

Expenses: Car fares 15 cts; R.R. fare, $1.00; lunch, 20 cts.

April 20 & 21. 1906

Being in Phila. at the Franklin Celebration, I went to the Acad. of Nat. Sciences and examined some of the types in that coll. I took along a number of specimens which I had provisionally identified with Cope's & Leidy's spps. to see if they were correctly determined. Conditions were unfavorable for work, as they were putting a new roof on the building & the halls were very dark. Mr. Stone, however, took a number of the types to the window for me & afterwards to his office, where I made comparisons & also corrected my sketches made in 1893 & added

Ches. Beach RR. Stations

Washington
Berry
Ritchie
Marrs
Brown
Hills
Marlboro
Penn. Junction
Pindell
Lyons Cr.
Chaney
Owings
Mt. Harmony
Ches. Beach

some new ones - I saw the type of Cetotherium cephalum but did not have time to examine it in detail. It is much larger than I supposed -

April 27, 1906

Went down to Chesapeake Beach at 9.25 AM & returned at 2.15 PM. The tide should have been low, according to the Atlantic Tide Tables, but it did not go down to any great extent while I was there & indeed seemed to be coming in when I left. This is very provoking. On account of the condition of the tide, I could not go under the main of bluffs at all, and got only about 25 specimens - One of these was a fragment of a max. & premax. which seems to belong to the other fragment, no 494, which I got long ago under the main bluffs. I dug in the marl at the little southern bluff where I got the mandible of Argyrocetus (?), but could not find any more fragments of it.

Expenses: Car fares, 15 cts., R.R. ticket, $1.00; lunch, 25 cts.

There is an interesting-looking greenish marl bed on the North side of the railroad track just before reaching Brown station (from Wash^n, on the Ches. Beach RR). Better stop off there some time & examine it. Get off at Brown station. There is another similar bank just beyond Marlboro.

May 2. 1906

Took street-car to Chesapeake Junction & walked out the RR. track & examine the marl banks along the line of the railroad. Just East of the car shops & about 1 mile East of the station found pieces of the carapace of a Trionyx, apparently T. virginianus Clark. With it were shells identified by W. Stanton as Exogyra costata Say, a characteristic shell of the Upper Cretaceous.

Went on to the high cut, on the divide between the Patuxent & Potomac rivers, where a track man said he had seen round "joints" sticking out of the bank, but could not find anything either cetacean or any kind of vertebrate.

Thunder shower in the morning.

May 10. 1906.

Went to Ches. Beach by 9.25 AM. train. Rather cool, windy & a little showery. The tide well down and was able to go under the main cliffs, which I did for at least a mile. Just before turning back found several teeth in one spot, some quite large. Marked a star * in the cliff at this point (also at the point in the little north cliff where I found the mandible of Argyrocetus.

Not many important finds beside the teeth, but got quite a number of vertebrae with more or less of the processes complete. Got about 57 specimens beside the teeth.

Expenses: RR. $1.00, car fares, 15 cts

Reserved for Gay Head.

~~Nov. 17.~~ 1906.

Nov. 17. 1906

Went to Ches. Beach on 9.25 A.M. train & returned at 2.20 P.M. - Spent most of the time between the R.R. station and the main cliffs. Went a short distance under the latter, but could not stay as the tide was too high - Large masses have fallen down from the cliffs during the past summer and the appearance of things is quite a little changed -

Found a humerus of a seal Leptophoca lenis, n. sp. several cetacean teeth and about 25 bones, - nothing very new among the latter - The teeth were picked up about opposite the hotel -

Feb. 2. 1907 -

Went to the Womans College, Baltimore, and examined the types of Metopocetus durinasus and Cetotherium crassangulum, which were placed on tables in the chemical laboratory in the 3d story of Goucher Hall for my inspection. There were also a number of large vertebrae and a few other fragments, chiefly collected by Prof. Bibbins in Va. & Md. Prof. Bibbins gave me all possible assistance and also took me to lunch at his house. I compared Copes descriptions and measurements & Copes & Cases figures & took notes - Prof. Bibbins said there was an extensive bone bed at Sarbay, Va., on the James River.

Expenses: R.R. to Balto. & return $1.25; parlor car to Balto, 25 cts.

Feb. 9, 1907.

Went to Woman's College again and made a more detailed examination of the types of Metopocetus and of Cetotherium crassangulum, compared measurements, took new ones, together with notes, etc.

Expenses: R.R. to Balto & return, $1.25; parlor car to Balto, 25 cts.; lunch, 20 cts.

Feb. 16, 1907.

Went to Balto. on private business and while there went over to the Woman's College again to take another look at the two types there - Spent a half hour comparing them and making sketches. Got looked into the bunch -

ing, but finally succeeded in getting out.

Mch. 9. 1907.

Went to the Woman's College again and made further study of the types of Cetotherium crassangulum & Metoproctus durnianus, paying special attention to the vertebrae of the former, of which the 1st 2d & 3d are attached to the skull. I proposed to Dr Bibbins that they ought to be separated, which he agreed to & introduced Mr. Wm Brough, 618 N. Eutaw St., expert mechanic, who could, he thought, do the work. I was not very favorably impressed. On returning found that Dr Merrill thought the work ought to be done here & would prefer to put it off till July.

In the afternoon went to Johns Hopkins. Saw Mr. Matthews & Mr. Berry. Found the types of most of Copes' species, but learned that 2 or 3 of them were in the Statehouse at Annapolis. Got out the type of Ephalotropis coronatus and compared Cope's description & measurements. Went hastily over all the other specimen, which were laid out on a table. The type of Case's Proscodesphinus crassangulum was in a drawer & looked interesting. It appeared that there was much more there than Case described.

Expenses:- R&R. ticket 1.25; parlor car, both ways .50; lunch .85; car fare .05.

Mch. 16. 1907.

Went to Johns Hopkins Univ. Examined the types of Cephalotropis, Tretulias, Syphonocetus, etc. Found that several were at Annapolis & noted the fact on the list - Examined the lymphatics which Cope referred to Balaena affinis Owen - Also looked over the type of Priscodelphinus ? crassangulum Case. Prof Clark promised I should might take any specimens wanted to Washington & about decided on this - There is much more of it than Case figured & I can probably make out the greater part of the skull. Examined briefly a new skull recently received - Resembles Mesocetus. Case's crassangulum appears to be a Cyrtodelphis like the beak Palmer restored for me -

Expenses: RR. ticket, 1.25, lunch, .35; parlor car return .50, car fare .05 -

Mch. 23. 1907

Went to Johns Hopkins Univ. & continued work on the types there, especially on Syphonocetus &c. Examined the new skull from Langley's Bluffs, St. Mary's Md. It resembles Procetus in many respects & is not a little like Metopocetus. Needs further study. Brought away by Prof. Clark's permission the type of Priscodelphinus ? crassangulum Case -

Expenses: RR. ticket 1.25; lunch, .15; parlor car .50; car fares .10

Mch. 30. 1907

Went to Chesapeake Beach with Weh. Found the tide high and very little on the beach, but had the good fortune to find a skull resembling Cystodelphis in the green marl, about a foot above the beach & immediately to the North of the Sunset Hotel. This point is just a few feet South of the steps which lead from the South end of the board walk as it now stands — The skull, including the beak, was about 3 ft. long, and was nearly all present. It lay with the dorsal surface downward and the right frontal exposed. The long axis was oblique into the face of the bank. The skull parts more or less in getting it out, but I got all the pieces. Did not leave anything in the bank & did not see any vertebrae. Euthyodelphis

May 11. 1907.

Went to Johns Hopkins Univ., Baltimore again. Ran over the notes made on types previously and made detailed notes on the whalebone whale skull from Langley's wharf. Mr. Berry said there would be no objection to publishing on this skull and that the necessary photographs could be made at the University.

I do not expect to go back again at present & the specimens will be put away. Mr. Berry told me they had a "barrell of vertebrae" down in the cellar which I was at liberty to examine later, if I wished

He showed me a very remarkable fossil having the appearance of the end of the bill of a sword-fish or bill-fish, but apparently mammalian. It was 6 or ten inches long, narrow long & somewhat depressed. Sharp at the distal end & broken off square at the proximal end. At the latter end in section it showed two distinct canals, with a vertical median partition between them. The outer surface was rather rough and the texture hard and tooth-like but it is not a tooth. Can it be the end of the rostrum of a ziphioid or allied cetacean?

Expenses:- R.R. ticket 1.25; parlor car .50; lunch, 60 cts.; street-car fare .05

June 3 to 11, 1907.

Went to Philadelphia and examined the types in the Academy of Nat. Sciences. Mr. Stone took the specimens out of the cases and brought them down into one of the offices on the 2d floor where I could work on them more conveniently than in the museum. I found about all the types that were definitely stated by Cope, Leidy, &c. to be in the Academy, including some not found by Case.

Of types which the records indicated might be in the Academy, but whose presence there was uncertain, none were found. I left a list with Mr. Stone showing what types were still undiscovered, and he promised to see whether he could find any of them. I put small red stars on all the specimens which I was able to determine to be types.

and Dr Dorsin gave orders that all these should be catalogued and numbered –

Mr. Stone informed me that there was a fossil whale skull in the ~~Phi~~ Univ. of Penn. which might prove interesting. I did not find time to go to the museum, however, nor to the Wagner Free Institute where Dr Gill thought some types might be found –

It appears that some of the types which came from North Carolina may still be in some museum in that State and letters should be written to Brimley, and others inquiring about them.

June 29. 1907 –

Went to Annapolis, Md., and examined the types of Ulias morattus, Cetotherium megalophysum & Paracetus mediatlanticus which are in the capitol in an exhibit of the Geol. Surv. of Maryland – I examined and measured them, but could not turn the type of Paracetus over to see the under surface, on account of its great weight.

These specimens were on a low base, with other large fossils, and above them were cases containing other zoological specimens. I noticed a vertebra like D. tyrannus among these, & on the base were several lumbar & caudal vertebrae of a large fossil cetacean whalebone whale – The

type of Ulias moratus is wedged in behind the supports of the cases above mentioned & is somewhat in danger of being broken more than it is at present. One piece about the size of an apple and belonging at the proximal end of the jaw kept dropping off the main piece and is likely to be lost - I ought to write to Prof. Clarke to withdraw these types and take them back to Baltimore, or else to protect them under glass - Perhaps the latter would be best as the capitol appears to be fireproof while the buildings at Balto. probably are not.

Expenses: RR to Annapolis & return, $2.00; lunch, $0.25 = $2.25.

Oct. 10, 1907

Went to Chesapeake Beach on 9.25 AM. train & returned at 2.20 P.M. Walked along the beach & waded around the point of main cliffs. Found about 38 pieces, including 2 teeth, 2 earbones of P. crassangulum & 2 smaller ones, 2 frontals of (apparently) a small whalebone whale, &c. The beach has changed considerably since last summer. The spot immediately North of the main cliffs has been much washed out and altered - Just South of the point of the main cliffs a very large mass has fallen down from the same, obliterating the beach & making passage difficult - I examined the various pieces but found nothing.

The tide, according to the tables, should

have been low but it was far from being so and was much risen when I left. I had to wade around the point of cliffs, as the beach was not exposed at any time. The place from which I got the Eurisodelphis skull was much worn and discolored - I looked for more fragments, but found none.

May 22-23, 1908.

Went to Chesapeake Beach. Got a few vertebrae, teeth, carbones, etc.

June 23-25, 1908

Went to North Chesapeake Beach, and collected along shore to about 2 miles below Ches. Beach. Got a large miscellaneous coll. of vertebrae, carbones, etc., Cluefh, cetacean.

June 26-27, 1908

Made a reconnaisance to Governors Run - Went down at night in a motor boat and returned by steamboat to Fair Haven & was carried by in buggy to North Ches. Beach. At Governors Run met Prof. Dorickson of Annville, Pa., who was very

friendly & pointed out places where specimens might be obtained; also presented an axis of a whalebone whale which he got out of the cliffs - Obtained a few bones from the cliffs immediately north & south of the wharf, but there was little or nothing on the beach and only scattered bones observed in the cliffs, usually high up & difficult to reach. They appear of a somewhat different character from those about Ches. Beach, etc. One was a leg bone of an animal like a bison, and there were also turtle bones. The place does not promise well but something peculiar and important might be found by chance. The boarding place at the wharf is very bad & another one should be found if anybody is to stay there again.

June 28-29, 1908

At North Ches. Beach again, and collected southward a mile or two beyond Ches. Beach. Got miscellaneous vertebrae, etc., some out of the banks north of the main cliffs.